

Message Text

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USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BONN 12838

WHITE HOUSE PASS AIR FORCE ONE FOR BRZEZINSKI AND POWELL

GENEVA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: JULY 13 MEDIA REACTION

SUMMARY AND COMMENT

THE GERMAN MORNING PRESS IS FULL OF REJOICING ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HERE. IT STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT AND THE HIGH HOPES FOR WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AS WELL AS AT THE SUMMIT. A GERMAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, REPORTED SEPARATELY, WELCOMES THE PRESIDENT, ALTHOUGH SOME GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN ARE BEING CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE POTENTIAL RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT. PRESS COMMENTARY ABOUT THE SUMMIT IS ALSO CAUTIOUS, CITING THE LIMITS ON THE CAPACITY TO ACT OF VARIOUS SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS (INCLUDING

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THE US).

A NUMBER OF EDITORIALS AND ARTICLES PRAISE THE PRESIDENT AND WARN AGAINST FORMING A JUDGMENT OF HIM ON THE BASIS OF SECONDHAND INFORMATION. INSTEAD, THEY STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING TO KNOW HIM PERSONALLY.

A WARNING NOTE WAS STRUCK IN YESTERDAY'S "DIE WELT."
IN A LONG STORY ABOUT THE SUMMIT (REPORTED YESTERDAY)
THE NEWSPAPER SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD TURNED DOWN
THE CHANCELLOR'S INVITATION TO VISIT HAMBURG AND SAID
THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH WITH
THE PRESIDENT THE WARM PERSONAL RELATIONS HE HAD ENJOYED
WITH HIS PREDECESSOR. THE STORY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT
THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR FULLY RECOGNIZED THE
NEED TO DEAL WITH EACH OTHER ON AN OPEN AND FRIENDLY
BASIS.

YESTERDAY'S "DIE WELT" STORY HAD THE EFFECT OF
DECIDING THE CHANCELLOR TO INCLUDE HIMSELF EVEN MORE
ACTIVELY IN THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH HOSTILE
JOURNALS MAY ATTEMPT TO PROVE THAT HE IS INCAPABLE OF
ESTABLISHING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THUS
UNABLE TO PROPERLY TO HANDLE THE GERMAN END OF THE FRG'S
MOST VITAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIP, OTHER NEWSPAPERS
ARE STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT AND ITS PO-
TENTIAL FOR GOOD. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES TODAY'S PRINCIPAL MEDIA
REPORTING.

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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2. DIE WELT (LEAD STORY) UNDER THE HEADLINE "SCHMIDT, KOHL, GENSCHER: WE WELCOME A GOOD FRIEND": CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT STATES IN HIS WELCOME ADDRESS TO PRESIDENT CARTER THAT GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE "AS GOOD AS NEVER BEFORE." THE EXISTENCE OF FRIENDLY U.S.-GERMAN TIES WAS EMPHASIZED ALSO BY FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND BY CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL. SCHMIDT'S WELCOME ADDRESS READS AS FOLLOWS: "YOUR VISIT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, MR. PRESIDENT, IS ANOTHER PROOF OF THE SELF-EVIDENT AND RELIABLE AND INCONTESTABLE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US GERMANS AND THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE MANIFOLD PROBLEMS WHICH URGENTLY REQUIRE SOLUTIONS BY ALL OF US CAN BE MASTERED ONLY IN COMMON RESPONSIBILITY. WE ARE READY TO MAKE OUR CONTRIBUTION. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN RELY ON OUR FIRM WILL TO APPROACH THE COMMON GOALS IN CLOSE COOPERATION. I AM OUTLINING A FACT BY POINTING OUT AGAIN ON THE DAY

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OF YOUR ARRIVAL IN BONN THAT GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE AS GOOD AS NEVER BEFORE..."

3. GENERAL-ANZEIGER (LEAD STORY) UNDER THE HEADLINE "CHANCELLOR WARNS AGAINST EXCESSIVE EXPECTATIONS": CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT SAID ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ARRIVAL IN BONN THAT A GERMAN CONTRIBUTION TO STIMULATING WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC GROWTH WOULD NOT BE OF MUCH USE IF MARKETS FOR GERMAN GOODS WERE RESTRICTED BY PROTECTIONIST MEANS AND IF OTHER COUNTRIES FAILED TO MAKE EFFORTS TO RESTORE THEIR BALANCES OF PAYMENTS AND TO REGAIN MONETARY STABILITY. IN REGARD TO CALLS FOR REDUCING GERMAN TAXES, SCHMIDT SAID HE IS NOT READY TO PUT HIS CARDS ON THE TABLE BEFORE THE SUMMIT MEETING. SOME PEOPLE MAY FIND THAT THEIR EXPECTATIONS WILL NOT COME TRUE, HE SAID.

4. STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG (LEAD STORY) UNDER THE HEADLINE "BONN SEES IN CARTER'S VISIT A DEMONSTRATION OF FRIENDSHIP": THE BONN GOVERNMENT SEES IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF SELF-EVIDENT, DEEPLY ROOTED GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BOELLING SAID. THE VISIT IS EVIDENCE OF THE CONTINUITY OF RELATIONS BASED NOT ONLY ON COMMON INTERESTS BUT ON COMMON BASIC CONVICTIONS. THERE ARE NO BILATERAL PROBLEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR. CONSULTATION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BONN HAS BEEN INTENSIVE, COMPREHENSIVE AND FREE FROM FRICTION. OCCASIONALLY ARISING DIFFERENCES OF VIEW TO BE CLARI-

FIED AMONG FRIENDS ARE NO PROBLEMS. PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR ARE FREE FROM ANY PROBLEMS AND MARKED BY FRANKNESS AND MUTUAL RESPECT, BOELLING SAID.
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5. DIE WELT AND OTHERS REPORT DETAILS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S GERMAN TV INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE POINTED OUT THAT HE IS NOT GOING TO BONN EMPTY-HANDED. THE U.S. HAS REDUCED ITS OIL IMPORTS AND ITS UNEMPLOYMENT WHILE INCREASING ITS ECONOMIC GROWTH RATES. GERMANY AND JAPAN HAVE NOT BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL IN REGARD TO ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE PRESIDENT SAID.

6. BILD ZEITUNG CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY VANCE. REJECTING REPORTS ABOUT PERSONAL DIFFERENCES OF VIEW BETWEEN CARTER AND SCHMIDT, VANCE SAID THE PRESIDENT HIGHLY RESPECTS AND ESTIMATES THE CHANCELLOR. THEIR DISCUSSIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND USEFUL. U.S.-FRG TIES ARE AS CLOSE AS THEY CAN BE. THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THE BASIC POLITICAL ISSUES, VANCE SAID. HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF FOR INTENSIFIED CONTACTS BETWEEN YOUNG GERMANS AND YOUNG AMERICANS.

7. THERE IS A VERITABLE SPATE OF EDITORIAL COMMENT ON PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT. FOR INSTANCE, DIE ZEIT COMMENTED IN TWO ADDITIONAL ARTICLES ON DETAILS OF THE SUMMIT AND ON BONN-WASHINGTON RELATIONS (INCIDENTALLY, IT ALSO CARRIED A FULL TRANSLATION OF ELISABETH DREW'S ARTICLE ON BRZEZINSKI IN THE MAY 1 EDITION OF THE NEW YORKER), AND FAZ EDITORIALIZED ON THE SUMMIT IN ITS ECONOMIC SECTION.

8. EXCERPTS FROM FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE'S ADELBERT WEINSTEIN: "THE GERMAN PUBLIC SHOULD PRACTICE MORE RESTRAINT IN JUDGING THE U.S. PRESIDENT. WHAT IS KNOWN OF HIM IS MOSTLY TRACEABLE TO SUPERFICIAL, SECOND-

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HAND AND CONFUSING INFORMATION. CARTER HIMSELF REAL-
IZES THAT HIS POLICY CAN BE DESCRIBED AS 'CONFUSING'.
HE CAREFULLY WATCHES THE IMPRESSION HIS DECISIONS
CREATE WITH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ...
AND IS NOT INDIFFERENT TO VEILED CRITICISM. NO ONE
CAN CRITICIZE CARTER FOR BEING STARRY-EYED OR LACKING
CONTACT. HE MAINTAINS INTIMATE AND PERMANENT RAPPORT
WITH HIS STAFF. HE IS AN EDUCATED PERSON AND SPEAKS
WELL. VIRTUALLY NO PRESIDENT BEFORE HIM FORMULATED
THINGS AS CLEARLY AND LOGICALLY AS HE DOES. SO WHAT
IS HIS STYLE OF GOVERNMENT? PERSONS WHO KNOW HIM WELL
SAY HE IS IN A PERMANENT CONFLICT WITH HIMSELF. HIS
INCLINATIONS -- LOVE OF PEACE, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING,
DISARMAMENT -- ARE MOSTLY IDENTICAL WITH THOSE OF
VANCE. BY LISTENING TO BRZEZINSKI, HE DOES HIS DUTY.
AND BRZEZINSKI PLEADS FOR TOUGHNESS TOWARD THE SOVIET
UNION, MILITARY ARMAMENT, AND A POKER GAME WITH PEKING.
CARTER REPORTEDLY MUST SEEK A MEAN BETWEEN THE COM-
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BATIVE FIRMNESS OF HIS SECURITY ADVISER AND THE MODER-
ATE STEADFASTNESS OF HIS SECRETARY OF STATE. CARTER,
THE CHAMPION OF CIVIL RIGHTS, AND CARTER, THE SUPREME
COMMANDER OF A NUCLEAR POWER, MUST FIND THE PROPER
SOLUTION FOR THE SAFETY AND FUTURE OF A WORLD POWER.
SO FAR THE WORLD HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GET USED TO THIS
POLICY."

9. DIE ZEIT: "ENCOURAGED BY THE EC COUNCIL MEETING IN
BREMEN, AND IN KEEPING WITH HIS NATURE, THE CHANCELLOR

WILL ACT AS SELF-ASSURED HOST. WHILE THE OTHERS MARKED TIME, HE AND GISCARD RISKED A STEP AHEAD. BUT IMPLEMENTATION OF A EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM WILL ENCOUNTER SERIOUS OBSTACLES. DOMESTIC OBJECTION ALREADY IS NOTICEABLE, AND THE EC PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY THE BRITISH, ARE NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS PLAN. THE IMPULSE EMANATING FROM BREMEN WILL NOT MUCH IMPRESS THE U.S. PRESIDENT. THIS IS INDICATED BY HIS WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE TOWARD BONN'S INITIATIVE. CARTER WANTS TO ACHIEVE OTHER THINGS, AND NOT A EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION THAT MIGHT ALSO BE INTERPRETED AS AN ANTI-DOLLAR DEFENSE ALLIANCE. THUS HE NOW AS BEFORE GIVES PRIORITY TO REVITALIZATION OF THE GERMAN AND JAPANESE ECONOMIES. BUT THE PRESIDENT CAN ONLY DESIRE IT. HE HAS NOTHING TO OFFER IN RETURN. ORIGINALLY THE U.S. PLANNED TO TRADE AMERICAN ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR GERMAN-JAPANESE ECONOMIC INJECTIONS. BUT WHILE THE EUROPEANS HAVE DEMONSTRATED CONSERVATION BY AN 18 PERCENT CUT OF OIL IMPORTS WITHIN THE FOUR YEARS AND HAVE PROMISED FURTHER CUTS, THE PRESIDENT IS LEFT EMPTY-HANDED. HIS ENERGY PROGRAM HAS BEEN MANGLED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL JUNGLE OF INTERESTS. THUS THERE IS SMALL WONDER THAT CARTER IS COMING WITH A NEW LIST OF

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TOPICS. NOW THE KEY WORD 'GATT' IS SUPPOSED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR A CUT OF OIL IMPORTS. THE AMERICANS WANT TO PRESSURE EUROPE IN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A WORLDWIDE DISMANTLING OF TRADE BARRIERS. EITHER THE EC ADMITS AN INCREASED IMPORT OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, OR THERE WILL BE NO GATT AGREEMENT, WASHINGTON'S NEGOTIATING CONCEPT HAS IT. WASHINGTON WILL ARGUE THAT AS LONG AS THE EUROPEANS CLOSE THEIR AGRICULTURAL MARKET, THE CONGRESS WILL REJECT ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES AND SHOW AN UNDERSTANDING FOR PROTECTIONIST MEASURES."

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10. DIE WELT: "PRESIDENT CARTER WILL BE WELCOMED HERE WITH PLEASURE AND RESPECT. THAT IS CERTAIN. VIRTUALLY ALL WEST GERMANS ARE WELL AWARE OF THE NECESSITY OF OUR DIVIDED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY EXPOSED COUNTRY BEING ALLIED WITH THE STRONGEST POWER IN THE WORLD. IT CONTINUES TO BE TRUE THAT SECURITY AS WE UNDERSTAND IT IS UNTHINKABLE WITHOUT OUR ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES. SOME PEOPLE MAY SAY THAT THIS IS SO SELF-EVIDENT THAT IT NEED NOT BE MENTIONED. THEY ARE WRONG. NOTHING WOULD BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN TO CONSIDER THE GERMAN-AMERICAN ALLIANCE AND GOOD BONN-WASHINGTON RELATIONS AS SO SELF-EVIDENT THAT EITHER SIDE COULD TAKE APPROVAL BY THE OTHER SIDE OF ANY INDIVIDUAL ACTION OR PROJECT FOR GRANTED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. ALL THAT BECAME VERY CLEAR IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. THERE HAVE BEEN REFERENCES TO THEIR GREAT DIFFERENCES OF CHARACTER, OF THINKING AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTING. THERE IS ONE THING THEY CERTAINLY HAVE IN COMMON, I.E., THEIR STRONG SELF-ASSURANCE. BOTH HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT THEY MUST COOPERATE TO PREVENT THEIR CAUSE AND GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS FROM SUFFERING SEVERE DAMAGE. WE ARE THE WEAKER PARTY. WE NEED THE ALLIANCE AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. MUCH MORE THAN THE AMERICANS DO. THAT IS A HOMETRUTH, BUT A TRUTH NEVERTHELESS, A TRUTH WHICH MUST ALWAYS BE KEPT IN MIND BY US, BY OUR CHANCELLOR AND BY OUR POLITICAL LEADERS IN GENERAL."

11. THIS CONCLUDES THE PRESS REPORT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN12838
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780287-0620
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780766/aaaacdkp.tel
Line Count: 387
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30c27e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2026599
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: JULY 13 MEDIA REACTION SUMMARY AND COMMENT THE GERMAN MORNING PRESS IS FULL OF REJOICING ON
TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: WHITE HOUSE STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30c27e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014